

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ARBITRATING ACCESS TO FIBRE CHANNEL
SYSTEM FOR STORAGE OR LAN INTERFACE APPLICATIONS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is related to the provision of a simplified interface to a Fibre Channel fabric. The present invention provides connection to a Fibre Channel fabric via a RS-232 interface. The present invention receives and buffers information received from the high bandwidth Fibre Channel system until communication via the RS-232 interface is possible. Likewise, the present invention receives and buffers information received from the RS-232 interface. The present invention waits until a predetermined amount of information is received before attempting to arbitrate access to the Fibre Channel system in order to minimize its effect of the Fibre Channel system. Moreover, the present invention utilizes the preceding mechanisms to emulate a Fibre Channel disk array for diagnostic purposes. Also, the present invention may be utilized by a number of PCs to provide an inexpensive LAN application.